

HEALTH
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Letsbury



Borough of Dukinfield

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1955



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BOROUGH OF DUKINFIELD

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1955

Chairman: Councillor Howard

Deputy Chairman: Councillor Hitchen

The Mayor: Councillor Healey

Alderman Bown	Alderman Shaw
Councillor Mrs. Andrew	Councillor Hinchliffe
Councillor Betteridge	Councillor Johnson
Councillor Denyer	Councillor Jones
Councillor Fieldhouse	Councillor Newton
Councillor Gow	Councillor Mrs. Senior
	Councillor Woolley

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:
Thomas Holme, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:
Leslie Buckley, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:
Alexander Handley, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerical Assistant - Elsie Heaton

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
DUKINFIELD, Cheshire.

To the Mayor, Chairman and Members
of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your
consideration my eighth Annual Report on the
work of the Public Health Department.

For the second year in succession, the Infant
Mortality rate was the most remarkable feature of
the vital statistics, with a figure of 8.92 per
thousand related live births. During the past
two years, out of 440 live births there have been
only 3 deaths. The year also showed a recovery
in the Birth Rate, which was 13.34, as against
10.89 the previous year.

Once again, the year brought a second out-
break of Sonne Dysentery, which reached greater
proportions than that of 1954 and caused a
considerable amount of work in the Department.

The report on the Housing Survey was presented
to you and accepted without modification. Further
comment will be found in the body of the report.

Another feature of the year's work in the
Department was the investigation and control of
3 major outbreaks of food poisoning. These occurred
in canteens where a large number of meals are cooked
daily and where the importance of observing strict
hygienic principles cannot be too frequently stressed.
At the time of writing, the Food Hygiene Regulations,
1955, have come into operation and it is hoped the
measures which they introduce will go a long way to
improve the conditions under which food is prepared
and sold.

In conclusion, may I express my thanks to the
Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Members of the Committee
and Staff, for all the help and encouragement they
have given me.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

T. HOLME

VITAL STATISTICS

Population 1951 Census (including Matley)....	18,451
Population 1955 (Registrar General's estimate)	18,310
Area in Acres	1,725
Rateable Value (1st April 1955)	£87,857
Number of deaths	215
Death Rate per thousand population	12.67
Number of live births	242
Live Birth Rate per thousand population	13.34
Number of still births	10
Still Birth Rate per thousand live and still births	40.06
Still Birth Rate per thousand population ...	0.54
Number of infant deaths	2
Infant Death Rate per thousand related live births	8.92
Number of maternal deaths	1
Maternal Mortality Rate per thousand related live & still births	4.27

PHYSICAL FEATURES

Dukinfield is situated on the left bank of the River Tame, which forms its northern and western boundary. The most populated part of the town lies to the northwest, where the river changes its direction and runs southwards.

The town itself is mainly situated on gradually sloping ground but the eastern end of the town, which is mainly rural in character, rises to a height of 700 feet. The subsoil is in some places loamy clay and in others sand-stone and the outcrop the Permian system. Underneath there are some coal measures, but these are not worked.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

I have nothing of importance to add to the comments I made last year, on the social conditions existing in the Borough. The gradual shift of population to the higher parts of the town continues as more new houses are completed - further comment on housing will be found later in this report.

Industry still divorces many married women from their homes during working hours but it is felt that the number of women so employed is gradually becoming less, the further one gets from the war years.

The main industries in the town are cotton, engineering, boiler making, rope and electrical accumulator manufacturing. Not all the inhabitants work in the town but are engaged in similar industries in the neighbourhood.

TABLE I

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY
DURING THE YEAR 1955

	England & Wales	Dukinfield
<u>Live Birth Rate</u> per thousand population	15.0	13.34
<u>Infant Death Rate</u> per thousand related live births	24.9	8.92
<u>Still Birth Rate</u> per thousand related live and still births	23.1	40.06
<u>Death Rate</u> (all causes) per thousand population	11.7	12.67

TABLE II

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES
AND INFANTILE MORTALITY FOR THE PERIOD 1931 - 1955

Year	Death Rate per thousand population	Birth Rate per thousand population	Infantile Mortality per thousand live births
1931- 1935	13.07 (average)	14.51 (average)	81.2 (average)
1936- 1940	13.87 (average)	14.47 (average)	57.74 (average)
1941- 1945	13.99 (average)	17.5 (average)	53.72 (average)
1946- 1950	13.75 (average)	17.28 (average)	41.29 (average)
1951- 1955	13.12 (average)	13.43 (average)	27.50 (average)
1955	12.67	13.34	8.92

TABLE III

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES
PER THOUSAND RELATED LIVE BIRTHS

Area	Infantile Mortality
England and Wales	24.9
Dukinfield	8.92

TABLE IV

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE
PER THOUSAND RELATED BIRTHS

Area	Maternal Mortality
Dukinfield	4.27

TABLE V

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS: 0 - 1 YEAR
ACCORDING TO AGE AND CAUSE

Cause of death	Age at Death	Sex
Congenital heart disease	2 wks.	M
Myocardial failure; atelectasis	3 days	M

TABLE VI

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS,

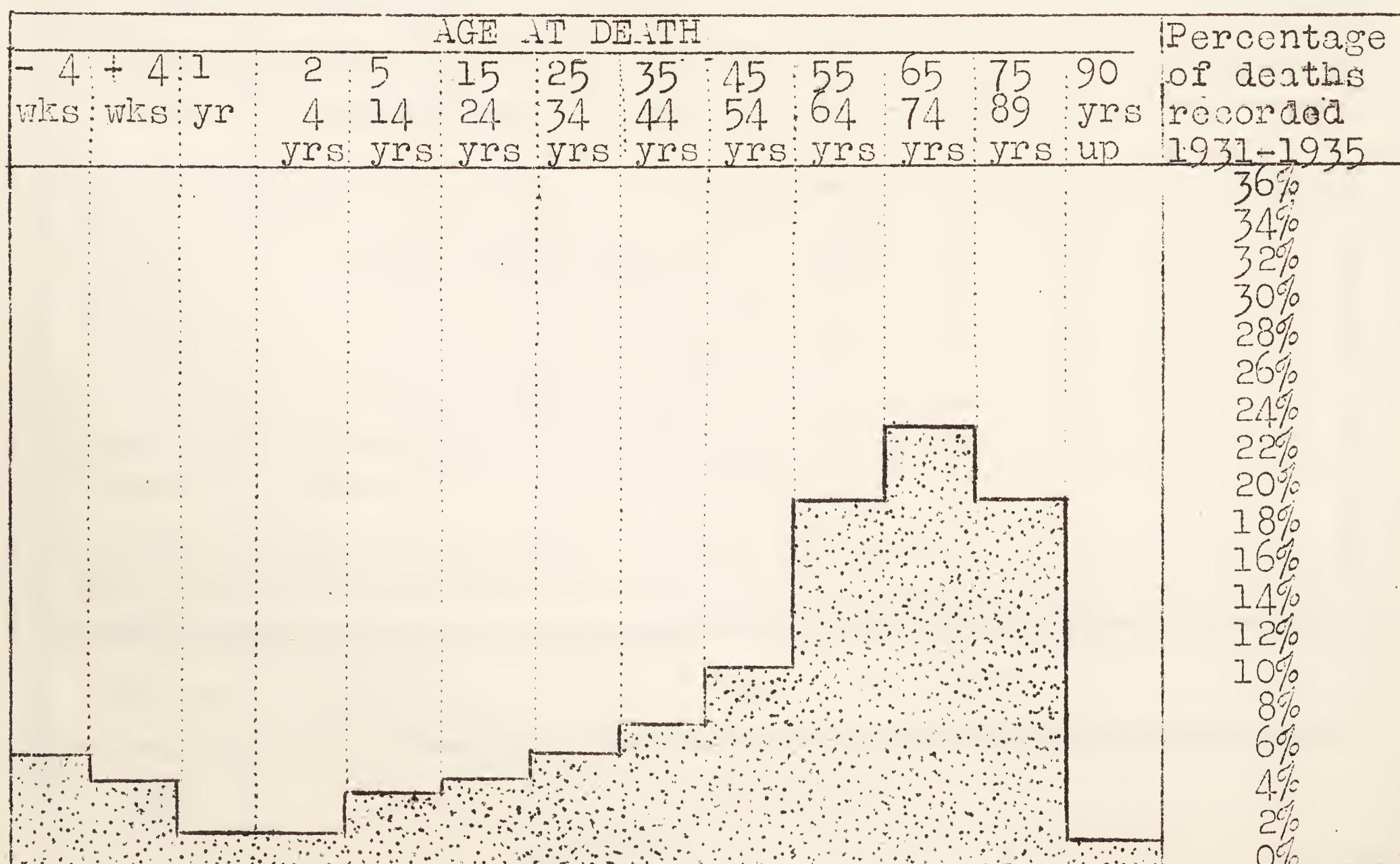
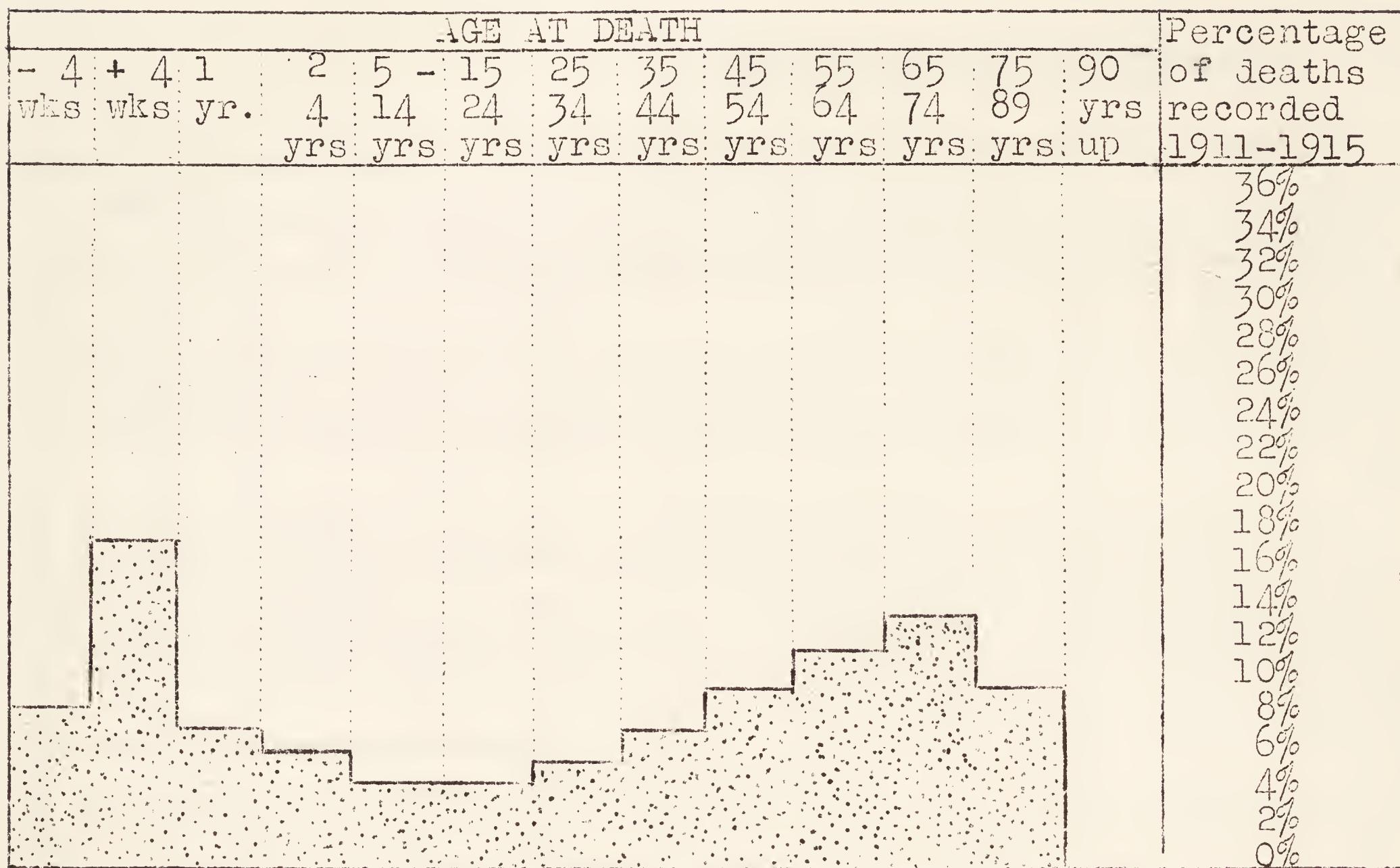
Cause of death	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years
Respiratory Tuberculosis				
Other Tuberculosis				
Syphilitic disease				
Other infective diseases				
Cancer, stomach				
Cancer, lung and bronchus				
Cancer, breast				
Cancer, uterus				
Cancer, other sites				1
Leukaemia, aleukaemia				
Diabetes				
Vascular lesions of C.N.S.				
Coronary disease, angina				
Hypertension, with heart d.				
Other heart diseases				
Other circulatory diseases				
Pneumonia				
Bronchitis				
Ulcer of stomach, duodenum				
Gastritis				1
Nephritis				
Hyperplasia of prostate				
Pregnancy, childbirth, aborn.				
Congenital malformations	1			
Other diseases	1			
Motor vehicle accidents				
All other accidents				1
Suicide				
TOTAL	2	-	1	2

TABLE VI

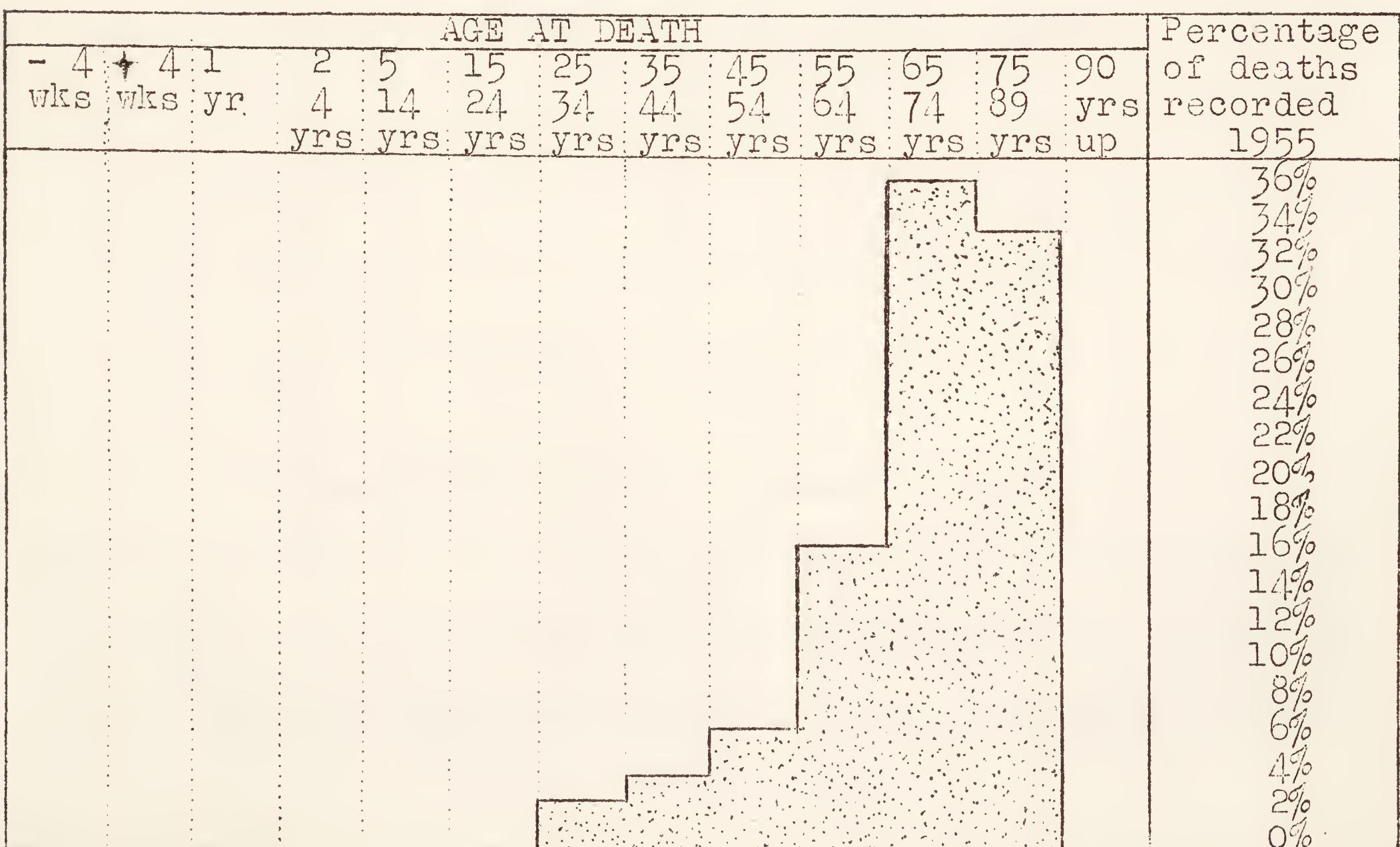
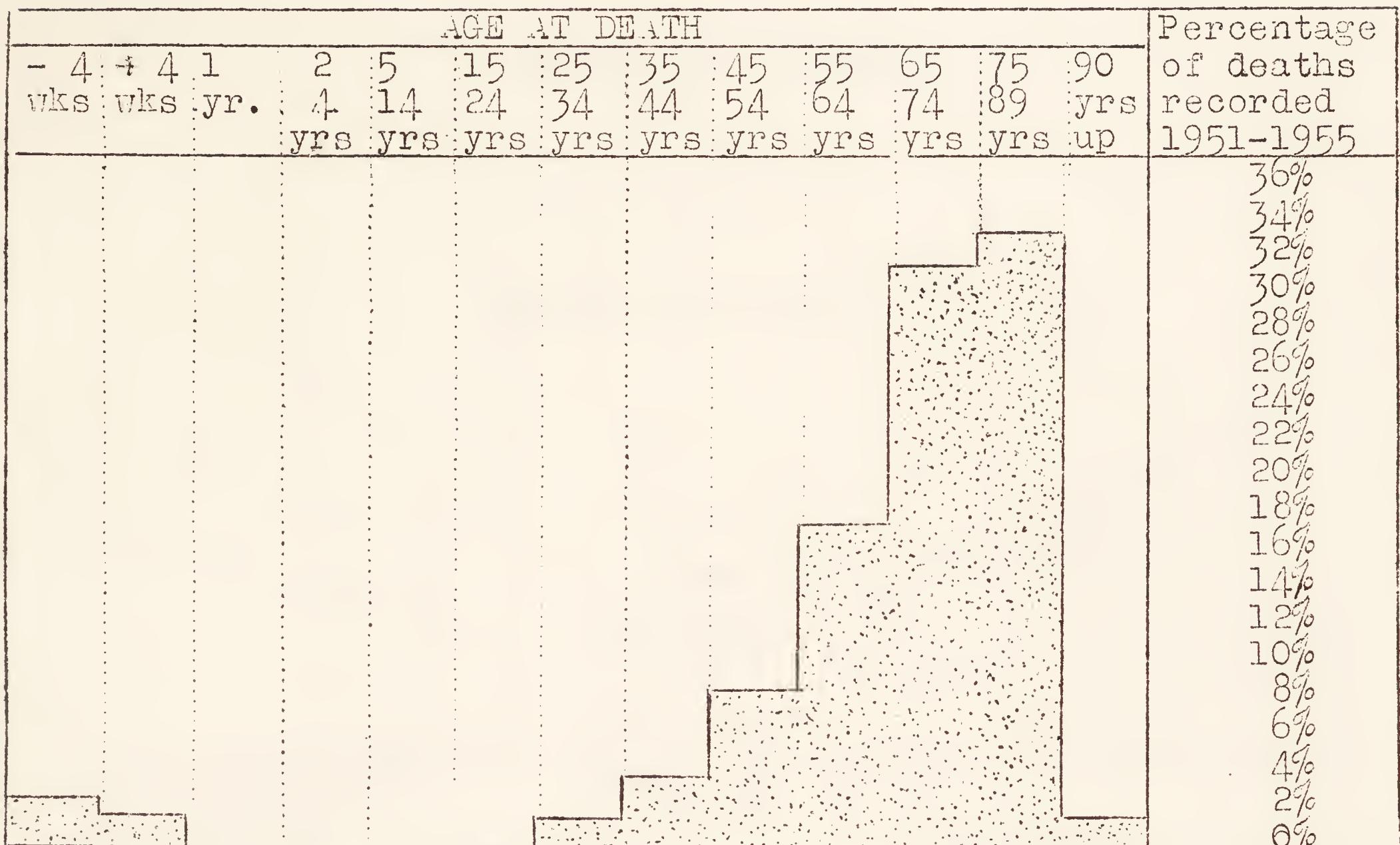
ACCORDING TO AGE AND CAUSE

15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-69 years	70-74 years	75 yrs up	TOTAL	
								M.	F.
			1	1				2	
		1			1				1
		1						1	
			4	1	3	4	8	4	
		1	1		1	2	4	1	
					2	2		4	
			2	4	4	4	9	10	
					2		2		
					1		1	1	1
1	2	2	7	7	9	9	14	23	
	2		6	4	5	6	15	8	
		1		1				2	
1		3	3	4	12	29	23	29	
				2	1		1	2	
1					1	1	1	2	2
		2	1		5	4	8	4	
		1	1				2		
			1	1			1	1	
1					1	1	2		1
								1	
1				4	1	2	8	10	7
									1
		1							1
		1		1		1	1	1	4
1									1
2	4	8	13	34	28	49	72	108	107
								215	

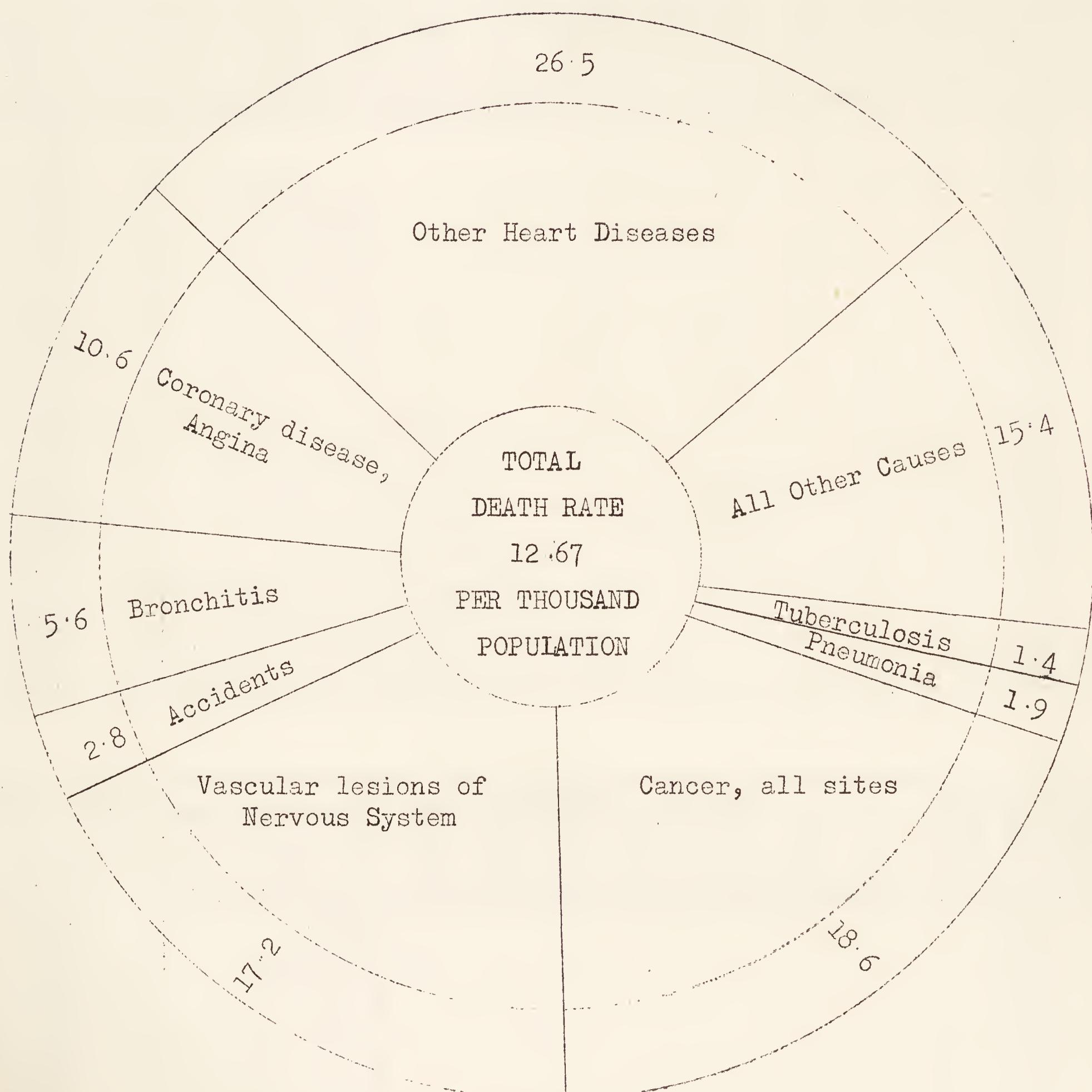
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS OVER VARIOUS FIVE YEAR PERIODS



PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS OVER VARIOUS FIVE YEAR PERIODS



DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES
 (Percentage of Total Deaths)



Deaths Included in "All Other Causes"

Leukaemia	0.9	Suicide	0.5
Diabetes	0.9	Syphilis	0.5
Nephritis	0.9	Gastritis	0.5
Hyperplasia	0.9	Pregnancy	0.5
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	0.9	Congenital malformations ..	0.5
		Other infective diseases ..	0.5
		Other diseases	7.9

TABLE VII
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

AGE	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Sc. Fever & Scarletina	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Measles	Poliomyelitis	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulm. Tuberculosis	Sonne Dysentery	Meningococcal Infect.	Puerperal Pyrexia	Food Poisoning	TOTAL
Under 1						88				4				12
1 & 2 yrs				1	90	1				16			1	109
3 & 4 yrs		11	3	3	133		1	1	1	17				168
5 - 9 yrs		15	6	3	110	1	2		2	44				181
10-14 yrs		1	1	1						9		39	51	
15-24 yrs							2		2	8		12	22	
25-44 yrs				2			1	4	30					37
45-64 yrs				3			4		2	2				9
65 yrs. up		1		2			2		2	2				7
Not known												19	19	
TOTAL	-	1	27	17	8	341	3	15	-	132	-	-	71	615
DEATHS	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	7

TABLE VIII

NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS OF T.B. CASES
DURING THE YEAR 1955

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Notifications	15	-
Deaths	2	1
Total number of Cases on Register 31.12.55	117	17

TABLE IX

HOUSING CIRCUMSTANCES OF T.B. CASES

Type of House	Type of house occupied when notified	Type of house occupied 31.12.55
V. Good (Corpn.)	45	84
V. Good (Other)	8	6
Good	19	12
F. Good	27	14
Fair	23	10
Poor	10	8
Bad	2	-

TABLE X
NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS OF T.B. CASES

Year	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
	New Cases notified	Deaths	New Cases notified	Deaths
1936	22	18	12	3
1937	19	18	4	2
1938	18	6	6	3
1939	17	14	6	-
1940	18	14	9	3
1941	12	9	6	3
1942	13	8	4	2
1943	12	8	7	4
1944	6	8	6	1
1945	13	7	3	-
1946	14	4	8	2
1947	10	7	3	2
1948	17	9	4	2
1949	17	8	3	1
1950	10	2	3	1
1951	18	5	3	1
1952	23	3	2	1
1953	20	3	2	-
1954	14	3	4	-
1955	15	2	-	1

TABLE XI

NUMBER OF FAMILIES RE-HOUSED DURING THE YEAR
 WITH AN ANALYSIS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES

Reason for removal	New houses	Re-let houses	Bedsitters, flats and bungalows	Total
Exchange to better class house				
Relief of overcrowding		2		2
Insufficient bedroom accommodation	27	28	4	59
Tuberculosis in family	1	5		6
Other medical reasons	2	4	8	14
Closing and Demolition Orders	10	15	7	32
Exchange to smaller house		4	20	24
Mutual exchanges		6		6
Staff		1		1
TOTAL	40	65	39	144

TABLE XII

HOUSES CONDEMNED OR CLOSED -
UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION

Year	Number of houses closed or condemned
1947	26
1948	13
1949	12
1950	11
1951	15
1952	15
1953	13
1954	21
1955	49

INFANT MORTALITY

During the year, there were only 2 infant deaths recorded, both of male children, and in each case, within the first month of life. Even though the total number of births is small, I think it is significant that during 1954 and 1955, there were only 3 infant deaths and, once more, I would like to pay a tribute to all those who are concerned with the health services in the area. Last year, I commented on the uninterrupted improvement in infant mortality as shown in Table II and it is pleasing to record a continued improvement in this index of the general health and social conditions of the population.

DEATH RATE

. There were 215 deaths during the year, of which 108 were males and 107 females. This figure is an improvement on the one for 1954 when 225 deaths were recorded. The Death Rate was 12.67 per thousand population, again an improvement on last year's figure of 13.23, although higher than the rate for the country as a whole. Table VI shows the distribution of the causes of death among the various age groups where it will be noted that the earlier ages are comparatively free from fatal illnesses.

The number of deaths from heart disease continues to increase and this year there were 80 deaths, as against 72 in 1954. There was, however, a reduction in the number of deaths from cancer, 40 cases as against 46 last year. There is no doubt that the health of the population has improved during the first half of the century, as the histograms on pages 10 and 11 show. The histograms give a pictorial record of the percentages of the total deaths over a five-year period, in particular age groups. The year 1955 is included to bring the picture up to date.

DEATH RATE (Contd.)

A striking feature is the uniformity of deaths throughout the age groups during the years 1911-1915 when compared with the years 1951-1955. The years 1931-1935 give a picture halfway between the two. It will be noted that the further one gets from the beginning of the century, the fewer are the deaths which occur below the age of 25, to such an extent that, in the histogram for 1955, they are so insignificant that it was found impossible to record them on this scale. The reasons for this improvement in the last fifty years are to be found in a progressively increasing knowledge in the causation, prevention and treatment of illness and in improved social conditions. These have altered the whole picture of disease incidence and it is hoped that in future reports, it may be possible to analyse in more detail the causes of death - especially in the 1911-1915 period - and compare these with present-day figures.

BIRTH RATE

During 1955, the Birth Rate rose to 13.34 per thousand population from 10.89 the previous year. This represents an increase in the total number of births by 38. Of the total live births (which exceed the deaths by 27, an exact reversal of the figures for 1954), 129 were males and 113 were females.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

It is regretted that one maternal death occurred in the town, being the first of its kind for many years.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of cases of infectious disease increased during the period under review and 615 were notified to the Health Department. In the main, this increase was caused by a higher incidence of measles and by 3 outbreaks of food poisoning. Once again, we had an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery which attacked 132 children and adults over a period of several months during the summer. In all, 371 cases were investigated and the Public Health Laboratory reported on 1097 specimens collected by this Department. Sonne Dysentery is becoming increasingly prevalent throughout the country and I can only repeat how important it is to observe personal hygiene, not only in preventing this disease but also in preventing the spread of other, more crippling conditions.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases notified in 1955 was 15 and there were no cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The number of deaths from this disease remained at 3. Note will be made in a further section of this report on the work which is being carried out in connection with B.C.G. Vaccination, which is now offered to schoolchildren in their 13th year, and contacts of tuberculosis cases.

HOUSING

I am indebted to Mr. Wensley, the Housing Manager, for compiling and supplying Table XI. The house lettings this year increased by 11 to 144, 20 families were re-housed on medical grounds, (of which 6 were families in which there was a tuberculous patient). 32 families were granted houses because their old house had been declared unfit for habitation and in 2 instances, over-crowding was relieved. 49 houses were represented as being unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense.

HOUSING (Contd.)

During the year, the Health Committee considered a report on a survey of the houses in the town, in which it was shown that 1,281 were unfit for habitation by the standards laid down in Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. It is a matter for regret that a start has not yet been made on the elimination of these unfit houses and, although the representation of individual unfit houses has of necessity increased to 49 in the year, I feel this is only nibbling at the problem. Practically all these houses are 100 years old and possess amenities of that era - such as tippler lavatories, lavatories shared with other families, and inadequate or no hot water supply. The control of excremental diseases requires a careful observance of hygienic principles in a family with modern conveniences but the problem becomes almost impossible when families share the same lavatory, which is itself unhygienic, and out of date, and when there is no provision in the house for hot water.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

Over a six week period in October and November, the Department was called in to investigate 3 outbreaks of diarrhoea, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. Two of these outbreaks occurred within a few days of each other at Astley Grammar School for Girls, and involved a total of 500 cases, of which 54 lived in the Borough. The third outbreak occurred at the Canteen of Robinson and Kershaw Limited and altogether, 60 cases were involved. In each of these outbreaks, the agent concerned was Clostridium Welchii and it was shown that a chain of circumstances was responsible for the organisms reaching sufficient proportions to produce symptoms of food poisoning. It is gratifying to report that, through the co-operation of the teaching, administrative and canteen staff, measures were introduced which have resulted in complete freedom of further outbreaks since November of last year.

MILK AND ICE CREAM

Of the 27 milk samples taken, 4 were found to be unsatisfactory and these were obtained from the same producer. This producer is situated outside the Borough Boundary and the necessary action was taken through the County Milk Officer at Preston.

Five samples of Ice Cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination; 4 of them were placed in Grade 1 and 1 in Grade 2. 2 Ice Lollies submitted for examination were satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY

I am indebted to Mr. M.T.B. Whitson, Engineer and Manager of the Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks, for the following report on the quality and quantity of the Borough water supply during 1955.

1. The quality and the quantity have both been satisfactory.
2. Bacteriological examinations of piped supplies:

<u>Type of Water</u>	<u>Samples taken & result</u>
Filtered water taken directly after filtration	6. Satisfactory
Filtered water - tap samples taken at various points in the Borough.	40. Excellent
Raw	None
Chemical Analysis	See report on p.23

3. Plumbo Solvency Calcium Carbonate added before filtration. Samples taken from same supply were quite satisfactory.
4. No form of contamination has presented itself.
5. Population supplied from public water mains:

(a) Direct to houses	18,445
(b) By means of standpipes	None.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS
OF THE BOROUGH'S WATER SUPPLY

Source (filtrate main tap sample)	Brushes
Date	24.1.55
pH Value	7.1
Colour in 2 ft. Glass Tube - mm Hazen solution	5
Turbidity - Silica Standard - ppm. ..	0.8
	P.P.M.
Total solids dried at 110°C	-
Suspended solids dried at 110°C.	-
Free acidity as CO ₂	2.6
Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	8.9
Hardness by soap test - Carbonate hardness	9
Non-carbonate hardness	33
Total	42
Combined Chlorine (CL ₂)	18.0
Nitrates - Nitric Nitrogen as N ₂	0.44
Nitrites - Nitrous Nitrogen as N ₂	0.002
Free and Saline Ammonia as NH ₃	0.140
Albuminoid Ammonia as NH ₃	0.027
Oxygen absorbed test, 4 hrs. at 27°C ..	0.28
Iron in solution as Fe	
Total Iron as Fe	
Manganese as Mn	0.03
Silica (SiO ₂)	11.3
Alumina AL ₂ O ₃	0.08
Alumina as Sulphate of Alumina	0.6
Lead as Pb taken up in 24 hrs.	0.27

REPORT: This water is satisfactory

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

This service continues to be administered by the Cheshire County Council, and a report will be found in a later section.

VENEREAL DISEASES

There is a centre at Ashton-under-Lyne General Hospital (Infirmary Section) for patients suffering from venereal diseases. This service is administered by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The area is covered by the Ashton, Hyde, Glossop group of Hospitals and approximately 75 per cent of all hospital cases are treated at the Ashton General Hospital. The remaining 25 per cent are referred to the Manchester Hospitals or private nursing homes.

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

These are administered by Cheshire County Council and a report for 1955 will be found in a later section.

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BOROUGH OF DUKINFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1955

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Public Health Department,
Town Hall, DUKINFIELD.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my 21st Annual Report upon the sanitary conditions existing in the Borough.

The appointment of Mr. A. Handley, as Additional Sanitary Inspector in February, 1954, has helped in no small measure in the working of the Department.

342 housing complaints were received as against 367 in 1954, a reduction of 25. As in previous years, these complaints consisted mainly of defects to old type cottage property. As condemnation of older type cottages proceeds, these complaints should be reduced.

During the year, 49 dwellinghouses of the cottage property type were found to be unfit for human habitation, as against 21 in 1954. 22 houses were demolished as against 27 in the previous year. The Housing Committee were very co-operative and re-housed 32 families, as against 14 in 1954.

5,260 visits of inspection and re-inspection were made, as against 5,392 during 1954, a reduction of 132. The reduction will probably be due to the number of visits connected with cases of dysentery which occurred during the year, when 303 visits were made to houses and the Public Health Laboratory. These investigations took up a considerable amount of time until the cases were cleared up.

Slaughterhouses and meat inspection accounted for 484 visits. A more detailed report will be found in the latter portion of this report. 334 shops of various types exist in the Borough, 394 visits being made. 27 milk samples, 1 of water and 5 of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, the results of which are included in the Medical Officer's portion of the report. 566 visits were made to food shops, canteens and restaurants during the year. 79 visits were made to shops selling bottled milk and 19 inspections were made to licensed premises.

During the year, 44 visits were made in connection with atmospheric pollution. Reduction could be made by careful stoking and the provision in dwellinghouses of modern slow burning fuel type of approved grates, together with the greater use of coke, low temperature carbonisation fuel, gas or electricity.

During 1955, 15 waste water closets were converted to the fresh water carriage system, as against 14 in 1954. I am sure these antiquated closets could be got rid of at a much quicker rate if this Committee would favourably consider small grants to owners. Such grants are given to owners by surrounding local authorities.

During the past 21 years as Sanitary Inspector to this local authority, great changes have taken place. Several cotton mills have closed or have been demolished, many houses have been condemned and demolished under slum clearance schemes; only a minority of back to back houses remain and these are being closed as opportunity occurs. Modern houses have been built in terraces or as semi-detached, together with bungalows, and two large old houses have been turned into comfortable flats for elderly people. These new houses are light and airy and have gardens and must have contributed tremendously towards the better health of my native town. May I congratulate the Housing Committee for their fore-sight and drive in this question of housing but it is regrettable that slum clearance schemes cannot be put into active operation at the present time and I shall welcome the time when that day arrives, as many unfit houses remain.

In conclusion, may I thank my past Chairman, Councillor J. Howard; the Deputy Chairman, Councillor A. Hitchen who is now Chairman during 1956, and the Health Committee generally for their co-operation, constructive criticism and whole-hearted support; Dr. T. Holme, Medical Officer of Health for his ever willing help; Mr. A. Handley, Additional Sanitary Inspector for co-operation in carrying out duties in connection with the work of the Department and to Miss E. Heaton, for her efficiency and service to us.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

L. BUCKLEY,
Sanitary Inspector.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

General Sanitation

Mortuary	2
Water Supply	1
Drainage: primary visits	69
Drainage: re-inspections	282
Stables and piggeries	3
Farms	2
Moveable dwellings	2
Public Conveniences	134
Places of entertainment	3
Licensed premises	19
Metal dealers	1
Rodent control	45
Atmospheric pollution	44
Schools	1
Miscellaneous sanitary visits	244

Miscellaneous Acts and Orders

Petroleum Act	25
Factories Act: Factories with power.	108
Factories without p	4
Bakehouses	41
Workplaces	4
Outworkers	13
Shops Act	394
Pet Shops Act	6
Diseases of Animals	2

Infectious Diseases

Visits and enquiries	238
Visits to Laboratory	65

Housing

Public Health Act: Primary visits	279
Public Health Act: Re-inspections	1483
Housing Act: Primary Visits.	54
Housing Act: Re-inspections.	154
Housing Act: Verminous premises	8
Housing Repairs and Rents Act	6
Housing Survey visits	341
Miscellaneous housing visits	68

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS (Contd.)

Meat and Food Inspection

Visits to slaughterhouses	484
Butchers.	58
Canteens	12
Restaurants	8
School Canteens	31
Fried Fish Shops	59
Bakehouses (self employed)	5
Milk distributors	79
Fishmongers	10
Grocers	209
Greengrocers & fruiterers	28
Food preparing premises..	13
Ice Cream premises	36
Miscellaneous food shops	36
Milk sampling	31
Water sampling	1
Ice Cream sampling	4
Unsound food	7
Miscellaneous food visits	4

TOTAL VISITS: 5, 260

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1. (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. 405
- (b) Number of inspections made for this purpose 1924
2. Number of dwellinghouses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 246
3. (a) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 49
- (b) Number of dwellinghouses demolished as unfit for human habitation.. .. 22

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR (Contd.)

4.	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	229
5.	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	246
6.	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice -	
	(a) by owners	55
	(b) by local authority in default of owners ..	3

NOTICES SERVED - PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Number of informal notices served	246
Number of informal notices complied with	229
Number of Statutory notices served	86
Number of Statutory notices complied with.. ..	76

DRAINAGE AND DISINFESTATION

Number of rooms disinfected - inf.disease	86
Number of rooms disinfested - verminous	74
Number of blocked house WCs released	657
Number of blocked house gullies released	882
Number of blocked house drains released	1539

CONVERSION OF WASTE WATER CLOSETS
TO FRESH WATER CARRIAGE SYSTEM

Waste water closets converted (houses)	15
--	----

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Food Shops

During the year, 496 visits were paid in connection with food inspection and these visits are listed in that portion of my report which deals with visits and inspections. Eight notices have been complied with as against 1 in 1954. More shopkeepers have installed electrical refrigerators and in many cases electrical counter display refrigerators have been fitted. The new Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 come into force during 1956. These regulations have long been desired and will affect the occupiers of food premises and persons engaged in the handling of food.

108 shops were registered for the sale of bottled milk. Owing to Government regulations, all milk sold is now bottled. This measure reduces external contamination and the day when milk roundsmen dipped a measure into a churn in an uncovered milk vehicle has now passed. All milk is now either Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised. This ensures a safe supply of this very valuable food.

A list of the various types of food shops is given below:

Grocers and general mixed	112
Bakers and confectioners	26
Butchers and pork butchers..	20
Greengrocers	13
Greengrocers/florists	2
Greengrocers/fishmongers	2
Fishmongers	3
Fish friers	22
Sweets, tobacco, ice cream	14
Cattle products	1

School Canteens

These canteens are inspected regularly. The high standard of cleanliness and efficiency is maintained and tribute should be paid to all staff and canteen workers.

During the school holiday periods, these canteens are fumigated with Gammexane smokers, thus reducing a fly and insect pest population which might otherwise be present. Absence of flies and insect pests has been most noticeable.

Ice Cream

52 premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream, an increase of 2 on last year. The Ice Cream is stored in electrically operated refrigerators. 5 samples of Ice Cream were submitted to the Laboratory for examination and all were found to be satisfactory. The modern travelling sales vans operating in the town are fitted with a hot water supply. These vans are attractive in appearance and are maintained to a high degree of efficiency. The salesmen and women operating these vans wear clean overalls.

Licensed Premises

There are 37 licensed premises in the town. 19 visits were paid. It is the general trend for the older type of public house to be modernised and where found necessary, for modern sanitation to be installed. Several houses have been redecorated in contemporary style. Generally, they have been found to be kept in a very clean condition.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION (Contd.)

Condemnation of Tinned Foods
and other unsound foods

The following table gives the figure of tinned foods, etc., which have been condemned as unfit for human consumption:

Minced Beef .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	lbs.
Scotch Shoulder Ham .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13½	lbs.
Flank .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	lbs.
Corned Beef .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6½	lbs.
Codfish .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	stone
Lobster .. .. ..	..	..	..	1 tin	..	..	6	oz.
Chicken .. .. ..	..	..	..	2 jars	..	..	2	lbs.
Sild & Pilchards ..	..	..	..	3 tins	..	..	3	lbs.
Tongue .. .. ..	..	..	..	3 tins	..	..	18	lbs.
Beef Paste .. ..	..	..	..	1 jar	..	..	1½	oz.
Minced Beef Loaf ..	..	..	..	1 tin	..	..	12	oz.
Stewed Steak .. ..	..	..	..	1 tin	..	..	15½	oz.
Tinned fruit .. ..	..	..	..	40 tins	..	..	46	lbs.
Tomatoes .. .. ..	..	..	..	2 tins	..	..	22	oz.
Canned Potatoes .. ..	..	..	..	13 tins	..	..	32½	lbs.
Dried Vegetables .. ..	..	..	..	2 tins	..	..	69	lbs.
Peas & Beans .. ..	..	..	..	6 tins	..	..	4	lbs.
Vegetable Soup .. ..	..	..	..	3 tins	..	..	3	lbs.
Biscuits .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	lbs.
Cocoa .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	lbs.
Tea .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	oz.
Cocoanut .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	lbs.
Black Treacle .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	lbs.
Bacon .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	lbs.
Jam & Marmalade .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	lbs.
Essences & Juices .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	oz.
Sponge Mixture .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6½	oz.
Skim Milk Powder .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	282	lbs.
Cereals .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1½	lbs.
Canned Eggs .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46	lbs.
Figs .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	lbs.
Cheese .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	lbs.

Weights and Measures - Samples

The following is an extract from a report received from the Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Cheshire County Council:

"Attached hereto is a list of samples taken in your Borough and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis, together with particulars regarding samples reported as non-standard. You will notice that two of these latter samples were certified as "genuine" even though of non-standard quality.

STACEY HALLARD,
Chief Inspector "

<u>Sample</u>	<u>No. Taken</u>	<u>Reported Against</u>
Bicarbonate of Soda	1	
Cornflour	1	
Curry Powder	1	
Epsom Salts	1	
White pepper	1	
Rice Creamola	1	
Milks	51	6

No.	Type of Milk	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1.	Sterilised	Genuine but abnormal 2.2% deficient in non-fatty solids	Attention of seller drawn to deficiency
2.	Tuberculin Tested	19% deficient in fat	Seller cautioned
3.	Sterilised	Contained 3.1% of extraneous water	Seller cautioned
4.	Jersey	5% deficient in fat	Particulars sent to Min. of Food
5.	Jersey	5% deficient in fat	
6.	Tuberculin Tested	Genuine but abnormal 1.1% deficient in non-fatty solids	No action

MEAT INSPECTION

In July of last year, two slaughterhouses re-opened, one in Alma Street for the killing of pigs and the other in Wharf Street for the killing of cattle, sheep, calves and pigs.

Both slaughterhouses have been kept in a clean and sanitary condition during the year. At the Wharf Street slaughterhouse, an electrically operated saw was installed, together with an electrically operated Ozone plant. The captive bolt pistol is used at the Alma Street slaughterhouse for pigs, but at the Wharf Street slaughterhouse, sheep and pigs are stunned by the use of an electrical stunner; the captive bolt pistol is used for cattle.

Every facility has been given to the Meat Inspectors during periods when inspection was necessary.

During the year, 484 visits were paid, as against 288 in 1954. These visits have taken up a considerable amount of my time and early morning visits are often necessary, especially so during the winter months and peak killing periods.

A list of cattle etc. killed and inspected is given overleaf; also shown are the amounts of meat and offal condemned. The animals slaughtered have been of a high standard. The percentages affected with tuberculosis are certainly much lower than they were during the last war and pre-war. This must be due to the use of tuberculin tests and the formation of attested herds.

No horses are slaughtered in the Borough.

No cases of Cysticercosis arose.

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected

Numbers killed and inspected

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI

Whole carcasses condemned

Carcases of which some part or
organ was condemned

Percentage of the number inspected
affected with disease other than
Tuberculosis and Cysticerci

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcasses condemned

Carcases of which some part or
organ was condemned

Percentage of the number inspected
affected with Tuberculosis

CYSTICERCOSIS

MEAT INSPECTIONand condemned in whole or in part

Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
3131	1661	213	25348	3972
0	0	0	1	1
105	161	1	895	64
3.35%	9.69%	0.46%	3.53%	1.63%
2	3	0	0	2
75	433	0	0	138
2.45%	26.2%	0	0	3.52%
-	-	-	-	-

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Appended is a list of shops in the Borough. During the year, these were visited and 394 visits and inspections were made.

Grocers and general mixed	112
Cattle Products	1
Bakers and confectioners	26
Butchers and pork butchers	20
Greengrocers	13
Greengrocers/florists	2
Fishmongers	3
Greengrocers/fishmongers	2
Fish friers	22
Sweets, tobacco, ice cream	14
Chemists & non-dispensing chemists and herbalists	6
Snack bars	1
Newsagents, stationers, fancy goods.	16
Drapers and outfitters..	19
Hairdressers	14
Boot and shoe repairers	11
Furniture dealers	5
Florists	3
Radio, electrical goods, motor and cycle repairs & stores ..	7
Hardware, plumbers', painters' and decorators' requisites ..	19
Other shops	18

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FACTORIES ACT, 1937

During the year, 157 inspections were made, as against 83 during 1954, 13 visits being paid to outworkers' premises. No outworker worked under unsatisfactory conditions. 46 visits were paid to bakehouses. 6 written notices were served under this Act concerning sanitary conveniences and in 4 cases defects were remedied.

It was found that, in the case of "Means of Escape in Case of Fire" greater use has been made of the advice given by the Fire Prevention Officer and his staff and I should like to thank them for their co-operation during the past year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Contd.)

	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted - NIL
(i) Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Auth.	5	8	-	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is to be enforced by Local Authority	92	149	6	
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	

Cases in which defects were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found			were referred to HMI by HMI
	were found	were remedied		
Want of cleanliness				
Overcrowding				
Unreasonable temp.				
Ineffective drainage of floors				
Inadequate ventilation				
Sanitary conveniences:				
(a) insufficient				
(b) unsuitable or defective	6	4		1
(c) not separate				
Other offences				
No occupiers were prosecuted during the year				

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS AND ORDERS

Anthrax Order, 1938

No cases were reported during the year.

Swine Fever Order

No case or suspected case of Swine Fever was reported during the year.

Foot and Mouth Disease

It was not necessary to issue any licences during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

Rodent Control

One fulltime rodent operator is employed for the inspection of the district for rodents. Treatment is given where necessary.

During the year, two sewer treatments were completed with satisfactory results. Sewer treatment is invaluable in keeping down surface infestations. The sewer treatments were carried out by the authority's own rodent operator, with the help of a labourer loaned from the Borough Surveyor's Department. It was not found necessary to take any legal proceedings during the year.

Type of Property	Total number of properties:		
	in Area	Inspected	Found to be infested and treated by Local Authority
Local Authority	7	3	3
Dwellinghouse	6081	923	118
Agricultural	12	2	-
Others	850	798	28
TOTAL	6950	1726	149

• S U P P L E M E N T.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STALYBRIDGE AND DUKINFIELD HEALTH DIVISION

REPORT OF THE
CLERK TO THE DIVISIONAL
HEALTH COMMITTEE
AND
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR 1955

S T A F F

Divisional Health Office,
99, Grosvenor Street,
Stalybridge. -

- Divisional Medical Officer - Thomas Holme, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Clerk to Committee - P. W. Musther, F.C.I.S.
Assistant County Medical Officer - Ena M. Cant, M.B., Ch.B.
Chief Clerk - A. Clough
Clerical Assistants - T. N. Darraugh
Misses J. Norton, D. King,
K. Sellars, O.B. Butterworth
-

Ambulance Supervisor

- J. Roebuck.

Health Visitors (Stalybridge)

- Miss S. A. Watson (died Mar./55)
Miss B. Sherratt (resd. July/55)
Miss D. P. Flint,
Miss C. Makin,
Miss M. Slack (apptd. May/55)
Miss F. Richardson (apptd.
Aug./55)

(Dukinfield)

- Miss W. Grimstone,
Miss W. E. Beresford,
Miss C. Hollings (apptd. July/55)

District Nurses (Stalybridge)

- Mrs. E. H. Slater,
Mrs. E. Garside (retd. June/55)
Mrs. E. Waite (resd. June/55)
Miss Cameron (from 21.10.55)
Miss A. Wright (from 6.8.55)
Miss E. Leigh (from 15.8.55 to
19.10.55)

(Dukinfield)

- Miss M. Stratton (retd. Dec./55)
Miss E. Ambler,
Miss O. Morton (apptd. Dec./55)

School Nurse (Dukinfield)

- Mrs. E. M. Thomas (retd. Mar./55)

Midwives (Stalybridge)

- Miss N. Robinson,
Mrs. F. Dent,
Miss M.E. Rhodes (resd. Sept./55)
Miss Banks (apptd. Sept./55)

(Dukinfield)

- Miss A. Lees,
Miss L. Bradley,

Authorised Officer

- J. Thompson

Physiotherapist

- Mrs. C. Cooke

Dental Surgeons

- Miss L. Kippen, L.D.S., D.P.D.
(part time basis - Stalybridge)
Mr. J. Lancashire, L.D.S.
(part time basis - Dukinfield)

Specialists

Ophthalmic Surgeon
Orthopaedic Surgeon
Gynaecologist - Stalybridge

- B. Boas, M.D.
- J. L. Mangan, F.R.C.S.
- W.E.C. Thomas, M.B., Ch.B.,
M.R.C.O.G.
- E. Ratner, M.D., D.P.H.
- E. M. Innes, F.R.C.S., D.L.O.
- M. Hillel, M.B., Ch.B.
(for Dr. Wardley)

Tuberculosis Physician
Ear, Nose & Throat Surgeon
General Practitioners
attending Welfare Centre,
Dukinfield on a sessional
basis.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

The three Welfare Centres in the Division are situated as follows:-

Dukinfield - King Street, Dukinfield.

Stalybridge - Mechanics' Institute,
New clinic, Millbrook.

Sessions are held as follows:-

King Street - Wednesday mornings and afternoons
and Thursday afternoons.

Millbrook - Monday afternoons.

Mechanics' Institute - Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons

Dukinfield Welfare Centre

An encouraging feature of the year's work was in increase in the total of new cases and there was a corresponding increase in the total attendances. Specialist clinics also showed increases over the previous year.

The final phase in the redecoration programme was completed during the year, otherwise no work of a constructional kind was carried out.

Mrs. Thomas, the School Nurse retired in March after many years of excellent work carried out with interest and efficiency and she will be missed by parents and staff alike. Miss Hellings who was appointed her successor took up her duties in July. The Health Visitors in Dukinfield now undertake school work with their other duties and are responsible for the schools in their respective areas.

Mechanics' Institute

There is little new to note about the work carried out at the Stalybridge clinic during the year under review. The numbers of new Child Welfare cases and total attendances are almost identical with the figures for 1954. There were, however, staff changes, the vacancy caused by the death of Miss Watson on which I commented in my last Annual Report being filled by the appointment of Miss Slack who took up duty in May, 1955

Miss Shorratt was transferred to another area in the County nearer her home in July and her departure ended many years of happy associations and co-operation with the rest of the clinic, office staff and mothers of the town. She was succeeded in August by Miss F. Richardson.

Millbrook

The new clinic premises proved to be a big advantage to the staff and mothers and the attendance figures show an increase over the previous year. There were, as I have already pointed out many teething troubles with the building equipment that had to be overcome in the initial stages but I feel that these are now behind us. The garden was an eyesore throughout the year and difficulty was experienced in obtaining a satisfactory tender for clearing it and seeding it down. I think it would be a decided advantage if the County Council included the laying out of gardens in the original estimate for the building as I feel new premises are ruined by surrounding land left untidy by the building contractor.

Voluntary Workers

Once again on behalf of the nursing staff I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the work so willingly and cheerfully given at the Dukinfield, Stalybridge and Millbrook clinics by the voluntary workers during the year.

General

During 1955 the total of livebirths in the Division increased to 611 from 531 in the previous year. Of the births notified 431 or 68.63% took place in hospital a figure consistent with the trend of the last few years when it has been noted that an increasing number of confinements have taken place in maternity wards. The number of stillbirths increased to 17 of which 8 occurred in hospital and 9 at home.

The work of the Health Visitors continues to be as varied and exacting as ever undertaking as they do clinic sessions and domiciliary visits to a variety of people for a variety of reasons. The "other visits" - 2717 - which are recorded include visits to domestic help cases, old people, tuberculosis patients and problem families.

Four of the Health Visitors received training under Professor and Mrs. Ewing in the assessment of deafness in children. In July the Committee authorised the purchase of the necessary equipment and regular sessions are now held to carry out this most useful work in the pre-school child.

		1955	1954
Total births in the Division - livebirths.....	611	531	
stillbirths.....	17	15	
" no. transfers into the Division.....	94	127	
" " of Welfare Sessions held.....	277	279	
" " children attending for 1st time 0-1 yr....	476	433	
" " of attendances.....	7227	6657	
" " "	1511	1917	
" " "	1670	3714	
" " " visits to new births.....	567	496	
" " " secondary visits.....	7889	10335	
" " " other visits.....	2717	2802	

TABLE A.

Child Welfare Clinics

Quarter	March				June				September				December			
	Clinic	S/P	D/F	M/B	S/B	D/F	F/D	S/B	D/F	M/B	S/B	D/F	M/B	S/B	D/F	M/B
New cases 0-1 yrs	59	54	19	67	57	17		50	48	15	40	38	12			
Total attendances 0-1 yrs	753	583	241	896	801	255	879	885	243	730	739	222				
attendances 1-2 yrs	229	141	67	175	125	83	172	127	73	155	98	66				
2-5 yrs	165	97	114	211	108	142	143	135	110	171	138	136				

The following table indicates the total births in the Division and the place of confinement :-

TABLE B

	Dukinfield						Stalybridge					
	Live		Still		Live		Still					
	1955	1954	1953	1955	1954	1953	1955	1954	1953	1955	1954	1954
Lake Hospital	107	84	124	2	2	4	186	174	168	5	7	
Other Maternity Homes	62	48	66	1	-	1	68	42	47	-	2	
Domiciliary confinement	68	68	59	5	1	1	120	115	117	4	5	
Total	237	200	249	8	3	6	374	331	332	9	12	

Welfare Foods

The sale of foods has continued satisfactorily from the public's point of view and I think the wishes of the Committee have been carried out - namely that the service provided by the Local Health Authority shall be as good as that when the distributing centres were the responsibility of the Government department concerned. There is no doubt however that the amount of room available at the Health Office is far from adequate under present arrangements and at the time of writing the Committee has already considered alternative arrangements which if put into effect will ease the position considerably.

The following table summarises the sale of foods during the year :-

TABLE C

Quarter		March	June	Sept.	Dec.	Total
National dried milk	@ 10½d @ 4/-d free	3775 10 -	4104 10 4	4102 15 24	3777 20 9	15,758 55 37
Cod Liver Oil		854	749	782	1036	3,421
A & D Tablets		354	380	385	359	1,478
Orange Juice	@ 5d free	3679 16	4248 19	5522 15	4280 28	17,729 78

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics

The Ante-natal clinic dealt with 36 new cases during the year and 25 patients attended the post-natal clinic; the total attendances showing an increase to 221. The routine blood testing for Rh. factor and the Wasserman reaction continued.

Ante-natal Clinics

	1955	1954
No. of sessions held.....	27	25
No. of new cases.....	36	34
No. of attendances.....	221	184
No. of patients on whom Rh. factor was investigated....	29	30
No. of patients on whom a Wasserman test was performed.	26	34

Post-natal Clinics

No. of new cases.....	25	27
No. of attendances.....	41	34

SPECIALIST CLINICS

It is most essential when running Child Welfare sessions to have the backing of specialist clinics where cases can be referred for consultants opinion and advice and although the numbers referred under 5 years of age appear to be small this is no reflection on the great value of this type of clinic. The numbers increased slightly during 1955.

Ophthalmic (under 5 yrs.)

	1955	1954
New cases.....	32	20
Total attendances.....	93	66

Ear, Nose & Throat (under 5 yrs.)

New cases.....	10	8
Total attendances.....	10	8

Physiotherapy (under 5 yrs.)

A large amount of most useful work is carried out at the physiotherapy sessions and altogether 1,337 attendances were made during 1955.

Total attendances for interview by Orthopaedic Surgeon.	142	166
Total attendances at Physiotherapist's Clinic.....	408	245
Total attendances for U.V.R. treatment.....	929	1489

	<u>DENTAL TREATMENT</u>	1955	1954
Ante-natal patients - new cases.....	4	1
- attendances.....	12	1
Post-natal patients - new cases.....	-	2
- attendances.....	-	5
Children under 5 yrs- new cases.....	21	26
- attendances.....	23	37
Dentures supplied.....	2	-

DAY NURSERIES

The total attendances fell during 1955 due to some extent to the presence of whooping cough and measles which was also prevalent in the town at the time. At one period the waiting list dropped to nil for the first time since Divisional Administration began. The reason for this does not appear to be a simple one which could be ascribed to trade recession or excessive charges, but I feel that with a gradual shift of population it may be that the nursery is no longer conveniently situated for many mothers.

In February the County Council delegated the appointment of Nursery staff to the Divisional Committee and one such appointment was found necessary following the resignation of a nursery assistant on health grounds. Great difficulty is experienced in keeping a handyman for any length of time and 1955 was no better than other years in this respect.

Further redecoration was carried out during the year to the staff room and kitchen.

Although the cost per child/day throughout the County increased it is pleasing to note that this figure remained the same for the Dewsnap Lane Day Nursery, and the average attendance though lower this year was still higher than the average.

		1955	1954
Total attendances...0-2 yrs.....	.....	2161	2434
...2-5 yrs .....	.....	5052	5232
Average attendance per child for 12 mths. (in days):			
0-2 yrs.....	.....	154	120
2-5 yrs.....	.....	201	217
Average attendance per day.....	.....	31	32
New cases admitted.....	.....	16	16
Waiting list as at 31/12/55.....	.....	4	16
No. of mothers in employment.....	.....	37	38
No. of medical examinations carried out.....	.....	39	269

TABLE D

Year	1949/50	1950/51	1951/52	1952/53	1953/54	1954/55
County Average child/day	8/3½d	9/6¾d	9/3½d	11/3½d	11/7d	11/11½d
Dukinfield child/day	10/0¾d	9/6¾d	9/11½d	11/4¾d	11/8d	11/8d
% attendance County Average	84%	77%	79%	71.5%	79%	84%
Dukinfield	87%	91%	94%	87.5%	89%	87%

FACTORY NURSERIES

The supervision of the following factory nurseries is the responsibility of the Cheshire County Council and your Medical Officer visits them at frequent intervals:-

Staley and Millbrook Limited
Victor Mill Limited
Robert Byrom (Stalybridge) Ltd.

MIDWIFERY

The Committee has had very little work in connection with the midwives in the area who are administered centrally. The County vehicle used by Miss Sowerbutts received normal maintenance throughout the year.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

For the second year there was a fall in the number of children vaccinated against smallpox in spite of every effort by the health visitors to get the mothers to take their children to their own family doctor or to the clinics. I think that one of the reasons for this may be found in the fact that clinics were suspended during part of the summer.

The number of children immunised against diphtheria also shows a fall when compared with the peak year of 1954 and once again I would like to stress to parents the importance of this form of protection which alone has been responsible for our comparative freedom from diphtheria since the war. Not only is immunisation offered by the doctors in the two towns but sessions are also held in the welfare clinics and also in the schools at the routine medical inspections.

TABLE E.

Vaccinations - 1955

Age at 31.12.55.	- 1	1	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 - over	Total
Born in year	1955	1954	1953 - 51	1950 - 41	Before 1940	
Vaccinated	119	78	21	28	16	262
Re-vaccinated	-	-	-	3	15	18

The figures for the seven complete years since vaccination ceased to be compulsory are as follows :-

1949	-	76
1950	-	223
1951	-	350
1952	-	459
1953	-	611
1954	-	518
1955	-	280

Diphtheria Immunisation
1941 - 55.

The following table shows the number of children at 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time since 1st January, 1941:-

TABLE F

Age at 31.12.55. i.e. born in year	Under 1 1955	1 - 4 1954-1951	5 - 9 1950-1946	10 - 14 1945-1941	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injection (whether primary or booster) A. 1951 - 1955.	35	1189	1114	369	2707
B. 1950 or earlier	-	-	1317	1770	3087

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
Total no. of children immunised by general practitioners at their own surgeries	193	166	136	111	145	153
Total no. of children immunised at clinics	480	650	417	237	327	235
Total	673	816	553	348	472	388

Total no. of children immunised against Whooping Cough only - 5

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The year 1955 will be remembered as one through which this service had a somewhat stormy passage and calm waters were only reached early in the present year. There were several incidents which led to differences and difficulties between the staff and as a result the Ambulance Sub-Committee met to consider suggestions made by the men and later to investigate a special case. The suggestions made about alterations to the Ambulance Depot itself and in relation to the special case were put into effect. The alterations which involved the building consisted of improved lighting, insulation of the walls and roof of the building and the provision of an emergency exit via the mess room window.

In addition the mess room furniture was replaced. I regret to have to report that the major scheme of improved lighting and insulation remains to be done but it is hoped this will be completed before the present winter.

There was one change among the staff during the year and the designations Driver and Attendant were at last changed to Driver/Attendant in June bringing all the staff on to the same conditions of service.

After many months under repair one ambulance was brought back into service, another of our older vehicles was disposed of and a replacement sitting case car was obtained in May. In February arrangements were made to obtain petrol from the Fire Station pump and the existing arrangement with the Stalybridge Highways Department was terminated.

In 1955 the total number of patients carried increased to 13,046 from 12,199 during 1954 and there was a corresponding increase in mileage to 61,076. At more than one meeting the Committee discussed the abuse of the service - a feeling which is also shared by the staff. I would point out that no patient is carried unless authority is obtained and care is taken to check up any case where it is felt patients could get to hospital by other means.

The establishment of ambulances, cars and staff in the Division during the year was as follows:-

Vehicles	-	3 ambulances 1 sitting case car 1 " " " (from 21.5.55)
Staff	-	1 Supervisor 2 Attendants 6 Drivers 1 Sitting Case Car Driver

TABLE G.

Stalybridge

	No. of vehicles	Total No. Journeys	Total No. Patients Carried	No. of Accident & Emergency Journeys inc. in col. 3.	Total Mileage
DIRECTLY Amb.	2	+ (62) 1615	+ (68) 4055	+ (10) 35	+ (1301) 16,061
PROVIDED Cars	2	+ (66) 1626	+ (68) 3538	+ (8) 31	+ (1268) 20,347
<u>Dukinfield</u>					
DIRECTLY Amb.	as	1058	2676	26	10,755
PROVIDED Cars	S/Bridge	1030	2641	26	13,913

+ Passengers not included in total picked up outside the administrative County other than same day returning out-patients.

Comparative Table of Journeys etc.

Year	Journeys	Patients	Mileage	Accidents
1949	5929	8238	270524	414
1950	6502	11140	58221	555
1951	7235	11812	61450	587
1952	7013	12139	63094	592
1953	5640	11377	60864	161
1954	5895	12199	54460	175
1955	5457	13026	61076	136

+ Stalybridge figures only

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARETuberculosis

The Committee has always taken an interest in the prevention of tuberculosis and I am glad to be able to report a reduction in the number of new notifications to 36. The total number of cases is now 288 as against 303 last year. In the field of

general preventive measures both Stalybridge and Dukinfield Housing Committees have continued to give priority to the rehousing of tuberculous patients living in overcrowded or insanitary conditions, the Health Visitors visit and advise on general health measures and a close liaison is maintained with the Chest Clinic. In addition nursing requisites are available through the loan cupboard.

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register at 31.12.55.	158	116	17	17	288
Notified during 1955	19	16	1	-	36

Deaths from Tuberculosis

Age

0 - 1 years	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 years	-	-	-	-	1
15 - 45 years	2	3	-	-	5
45 - 65 years	2	-	-	-	2
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-

B.C.G.

The work of vaccination with B.C.G. now a routine measure as a complement to the normal preventive measures, continued throughout the year. It will be noted that there was a substantial increase in the number of school children and contacts vaccinated. By the end of the year a total of 632 school children and contacts had received B.C.G., a figure which is being added to each quarter, and it is also of interest to note that on testing those vaccinated last year all proved to be still protected. The acceptance rate however fell slightly, but still remained over 75% which is encouraging. Not all children tested require vaccination and those who show positive mantoux tests are referred to the School Medical Officer for a special examination when she is next in school and during the year arrangements were also made by the County Medical Officer's Department for X-ray examination by the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit when it is available for the area.

TABLE H.

	School children	Contacts
Number	707	223
Consents	530	197
% Consents		78.17
Mantoux Positive	204	21
% Positive	32.89	11.47
No. Vaccinated	297	88

NURSING REQUISITES

The following items of nursing equipment have been issued from the Stores based on the Ambulance Depot, King Street, Stalybridge, and on the office of the Authorised Officer, Dukinfield :-

Hot water bottles	2	Drinking cup	1
Bed cradles	1	Bed	1
Air rings	31	Wheel chairs	11
Back rests	25	Crutches	2 prs.
Urinals	11	Bed pans	42
Rubber ring	1	Mackintosh sheets	15
Spinal chair	1	Mattress	1

CONVALESCENT HOME TREATMENT

Three applications for a reduction in the charge were received and considered by the Committee and in 2 cases this was reduced.

A sum of £125 was once again granted by the County Health Committee for the financial assistance of persons requiring Convalescent Home treatment within the Division. Arrangements are still in operation with the three Convalescent Homes at Llandudno, St. Annes and Marple. 12 patients were admitted during the year - 8 adult females, 3 adult males and 1 male child. 4 of the patients paid the whole cost of treatment and 8 received financial assistance.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The number of staff was increased during the year to 13 full time and 16 part time domestic helps, all of these being engaged in a temporary capacity. This was found necessary to cater for the increasing demand which is being placed on this service. Altogether 196 cases received assistance of which the majority (164) were aged and chronic sick. There is no doubt that we have not yet reached our peak and as the proportion of old people in the population increases so will the work of the domestic helps. This service is continuing to save many hospital beds at a more economical cost though I would point out here that many of the cases dealt with should have been in hospital but were unable to obtain a bed. The recent appointment of a Geriatrician has done a great deal to ease the situation with regard to chronic sick cases and I am pleased to say that the picture has been considerably brighter since he began work in this field.

Three applications for a reduction in the charge were received and considered by the Committee and in two cases this was reduced.

No. of Cases attended by Domestic Helps

	1955	1954	1953	1952
(a) Maternity Cases, Sick & Nursing Mothers	11	12	16	12
(b) General Sickness.....	19	19	27	25
(c) Aged and chronic sick.....	164	137	118	104
(d) Tuberculosis cases.....	2	-	-	-
	196	168	161	141

It will be noticed that though the total cases attended increased by 28, the working hours increased by 10,091 to 35,116 and the average number of cases attended weekly was 115.

164 of the total 196 were long-term continuation cases of the aged person or chronic sick type, a percentage of 83.67. The number of maternity and nursing mother cases decreased by 1 and general sick cases stayed the same at 19.

In addition service for a short period was given to one tuberculous case and over a long period to another case of tuberculosis.

The total income from cases in the year was £829. 8. Od.

In a service such as this it is necessary to have reliable and honest staff and it is to be regretted that during the year action had to be taken through the Courts in respect of one of our employees.

REPORT OF THE DULY AUTHORISED OFFICER, MR. J. THOMPSON,
IN RESPECT OF WORK CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE AREA OF THE
STALYBRIDGE AND DUKINFIELD HEALTH DIVISION DURING
THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955

1. Precis of cases dealt with under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.

	Male	Female
Cases dealt with under Sec. 20 Lunacy Act, 1890, i.e. admitted to hospital as cases of urgency on the order of the authorised officer	3	2
Cases dealt with under Sec. 21 Lunacy Act, 1890 i.e. admitted to hospital on the order of a magistrate for observation for 14 days	3	8
Cases dealt with under Sec. 16 Lunacy Act, 1890 i.e. certified as being of unsound mind	5	5
Cases dealt with under Sec. 1 Mental Treatment Act, 1930, i.e. admitted to hospital as voluntary patients.	6	7

In addition to the above 3 male and 10 female patients were dealt with as out-patients where their condition was not serious enough to warrant their admission to hospital. In one case information was laid to the authorised officer but the case was dismissed by the magistrate after examination. Arrangements were made for domiciliary visits by the Consultant Psychiatrist in three cases, and by the Consultant Physician in two cases. Nine cases were referred to the authorised officer but no further action taken after initial investigation. In one case patient recovered before admission to hospital could be arranged.

2. Visits were made to homes of mental defectives in mental defective colonies in order that reports on home conditions could be submitted to the colonies concerned.
3. In the case of 7 men and 4 women admissions were arranged to chronic sick wards for local general practitioners during the year.
4. One man, two women and four children were admitted to residential accommodation on behalf of the County Welfare Committee.
5. Two mentally defective patients were admitted to residential accommodation.

6. Domiciliary supervision visits have been made at regular intervals to male mentally defective patients in the area.
7. Items of nursing requisites have been issued from Store during the year as detailed elsewhere in the Report of the Divisional Medical Officer.

